

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended and claim 3 is canceled. Support for the amended claims may be found in the original specification at, for example, original claim 3. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to nonstatutory subject matter.

Claim 7 is amended to be directed toward a computer-readable medium that stores a program for performing image processing on image data.

As such, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,113,648 ("Aihara"). However, in light of the amended claims, this rejection is moot.

In particular, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended to include the features of allowable claim 3 and claim 3 is canceled.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6 and 7, and dependent claims thereof, are patentable over the applied reference. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-7 were provisionally rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1-10 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/779,706. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the above rejection. As such, withdrawal of this double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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